

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO SUSPEND THE MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to suspend the Master of Arts in Psychology in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

**Description of program.** The Master of Arts in Psychology is a two-year program with an emphasis in clinical science or social psychology. The program has a strong empirical orientation, emphasizes competence in research methodology, and requires that each graduate student satisfy a thesis requirement. The program reflects the views of department faculty that such an orientation is essential for the education of sophisticated consumers of psychological research at the master's level and for the preparation of students interested in the pursuit of a doctoral degree.

**Reason for proposed suspension.** The department requests to suspend admissions because decreased faculty numbers have impaired the ability to continue the program as it is currently designed. The required thesis and research experiences and specialized courses are very time intensive. The department plans to suspend the program for a year and evaluate other options that are sustainable to support a higher student enrollment with current staffing resources.

**Effect on current students.** Current applicants will be notified of the suspension. Current students will continue the program without interruption as the department continues to offer their courses next year.

**Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends.**

	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Completions</b>
2022	51	8	8
2021	40	12	8
2020	33	8	5
2019	33	9	5
2018	38	9	5

**Impact on resources.** This will free up about 18 teaching hours per year to be reapplied to the undergraduate program as well as considerable time savings in supervising graduate students. These will be reallocated to the large undergraduate major program at UNI.

**Impact on workforce.** UNI's program typically has fewer than 10 graduates per year. The impact on the Iowa workforce should be minimal.

**Alternative programs.** The department believes there is not a clinical science program at other Iowa schools. There are counseling programs, which are license-eligible (UNI's MA program is not license eligible). Iowa State has a MA in psychology where students can specialize in social psychology.

**Effective date of termination.** Upon approval by the Board of Regents.